

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6 are currently pending. Claims 1 and 3 have been amended; and Claims 5 and 6 have been added by the present amendment. The changes and additions to the claims are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0097590 to Syvanne (hereinafter “the ‘590 application”).

Amended Claim 1 is directed to a communication control apparatus for implementing transmission and reception of data to and from a plurality of external firewall devices connectable to a mobile station, the communication control apparatus comprising: (1) storing means for storing firewall configuration information suitable for the mobile station, in correspondence with identification information that identifies the mobile station among a plurality of mobile stations; (2) detecting means for detecting an external firewall device connected to the mobile station by receiving information for notifying movement of the mobile station via the external firewall device; and (3) transmitting means for, in response to the detection of the external firewall device connected to the mobile station, transmitting the stored firewall configuration information corresponding to the identification information of the mobile station, to the external firewall device. The changes to Claim 1 are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.¹

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claim 1 is rendered moot by the present amendment to Claim 1.

¹ See, e.g., Figures 1 and 2 and the discussion related thereto in the specification.

Regarding the rejection of Claim 1 as anticipated by the '590 application, the '590 application is directed to a computer terminal that includes a personal firewall unit provided with one set of security rules to be used when the computer terminal is connected to a home network, and one set of security rules to be used when the computer terminal is connected to a foreign network.² The '590 application discloses that the personal firewall has a mechanism for monitoring the current location of the computer terminal based on the IP address currently used by the computer terminal, and a mechanism to automatically select one of the security rules according to the current location of the computer terminal. In particular, Applicants note that the '590 application discloses a system in which the personal firewall is located in the client computer itself.

However, Applicants respectfully submit that the '590 application fails to disclose a communication control apparatus that includes a storing means for storing firewall configuration information suitable for a mobile station, in correspondence with identification information that identifies the mobile station among a plurality of mobile stations, as recited in Claim 1. The '590 application is directed to the use of a single computing device in both a home network and a foreign network, such that one of two sets of security rules can be used depending on which network the device is connected to. Thus, the '590 patent does not disclose identification information that identifies the mobile station among a plurality of mobile stations, as recited in Claim 1. Assuming that the Examiner is equating the personal firewall disclosed by the '590 application with the communication control apparatus recited in Claim 1, the '590 personal firewall does not store firewall configuration information in correspondence with identification information that identifies the computer in which the personal firewall resides among a plurality of computer terminals. The '590 personal firewall is personal and used only with the computer terminal in which it resides.

² See '590 application, Figure 3 and paragraph 35.

Further, Applicants respectfully submit that the '590 application fails to disclose a communication control apparatus that includes detecting means for detecting an external firewall device connected to the mobile station by receiving information for notifying movement of the mobile station via the external firewall device, as recited in Claim 1. As discussed above, the personal firewall device disclosed by the '590 patent is not external and is located within the computer terminal of the '590 system. Moreover, if the communication control apparatus recited in Claim 1 is equated with the personal firewall device disclosed by the '590 patent, Applicants respectfully submit that the '590 personal firewall device does not have means for detecting that an external firewall device is connected to the '590 computer terminal, as would be required by Claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that the '590 application does not disclose detecting any external firewall devices.

Further, Applicants respectfully submit that the '590 patent fails to disclose transmitting means for, in response to the detection of the external firewall device connected to the mobile station, transmitting the stored firewall configuration information corresponding to the identification information of the mobile station, to the external firewall device, as recited in amended Claim 1. Equating the claimed communication control apparatus with the personal firewall device disclosed by the '590 application, the transmitting means recited in Claim 1 requires that the '590 personal firewall device transmit stored firewall configuration information either to itself or to an "external firewall device." However, the '590 patent does not disclose that any type of stored firewall configuration information corresponding to the identification information of a mobile station is transmitted to any type of device. Rather, the '590 patent merely discloses that, based on the identification of what type of network the computer is connected to, the personal firewall selects a set of security rules to be used. Transmitting stored firewall configuration information to a firewall device is not disclosed by the '590 application.

Thus, for the reasons stated above, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claim 1 is rendered moot by the present amendment to that claim and that Claim 1 (and all similarly dependent claims) patentably defines over the '590 application.

Claim 3 recites limitations analogous to the limitations recited in Claim 1. Moreover, Claim 3 has been amended in a manner analogous to the amendment to Claim 1. Accordingly, for reasons analogous to the reasons stated above, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claim 3 (and dependent Claim 4) is rendered moot by the present amendment to that claim.

The present amendment also sets forth new Claims 5 and 6, which depend from Claim 1, for examination on the merits. New Claim 5 clarifies that the detecting means comprises means for receiving, from the external firewall device, a binding update packet that indicates that the mobile station has moved and is connected to the external firewall device. New Claim 5 is supported by the originally filed specification and does not add new matter.³ New Claim 6, clarifies that the transmitting means comprises means for transmitting the identification information of the mobile station to the external firewall device together with the stored firewall configuration information. New Claim 6 is supported by the originally filed specification and does not add new matter.⁴

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 1 and 3 (and all associated dependent claims) patentably define over the '590 application.

³ See, e.g., page 15, line 23 to page 16, line 3 in the specification.

⁴ See, e.g., Figure 2 and the discussion related thereto in the specification.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussion, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application is amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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